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Juvenile custodial officers set to march on parliament

Juvenile custodial officers who work in WA's Corrective Services system are angry they are not protected by mandatory sentencing laws that apply to prison officers, police officers and ambulance officers.

The officers, who are based at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre and the Rangeview Remand Centre, will be highlighting their concerns on the steps of State Parliament on Tuesday afternoon at 1pm.

They hope to convince Corrective Services Minister Terry Redman that they deserve the same protection after suffering bodily harm when in the line of duty.

Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said their members were frustrated that the Barnett Government won't recognise them as public officers and offer them the same protection.

"There have been serious assaults on the Juvenile Custodial Officers in both these facilities yet there is nothing to deter these young offenders from doing it again," Ms Walkington said.

"Our members question what's the difference between a serious assault on an officer in an adult prison or on an officer in a juvenile facility because the outcomes are totally different.

Earlier this year the union requested a meeting with then Attorney General Christian Porter to consider changing the legislation.

"We were advised from the State Solicitor's Office that Juvenile Custodial Officers do not fall within the definition and mandatory sentencing does not apply.

"Our request was forwarded to Minister Redman as we were told it was his responsibility, but he is yet to respond.

"The minister has been invited to hear our concerns on the steps of Parliament on Tuesday, hopefully he will spare a few minutes to find out first-hand what is going on."

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